

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 24-30 is respectfully requested. The allowance of claims 1-23, and the recognition of allowable subject matter in claims 25, 28, and 29 is acknowledged with appreciation. Additionally, Applicants appreciate the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement.

The drawings were objected to because reference character 14a was not depicted in the Figures. Replacement Sheet (1/3) included herewith includes an amended Figure 1 that includes reference character 14a. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Abstract of the specification was objected to on page 17 for "and is" appearing twice. The Abstract was amended. Withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

Claims 24, 26, 27, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) applying U.S. Pat. No. 6,370,303 (the '303 patent) without a teaching reference. For patents to be applicable under sec. 103(a), the combination of teachings must, *inter alia*, expressly or inherently, teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. Additionally, motivation and suggestion to combine the patents must be present.

The Office Action admitted that the '303 patent does not disclose a fiber optic cable having at least one strength member being a steel that is annealed. Applicants agree. Instead, the Office Action shifted the burden to Applicant to provide proof that "annealed" steel has different material properties than steel made by other processes. See p. 3 of the Office Action dated June 22, 2004.

The skilled artisan would have understood that annealing steel changes its properties, i.e., it relieves the work hardening from for instance the drawing process used to form the

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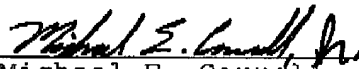
steel wire. See p. 5 of the present application. By way of example, and not limitation, "anneal" means to heat and then cool (as steel or glass) usu. for softening and making less brittle. See p. 46 of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition (attached). Thus, annealing provides the steel with different material properties, thereby providing the advantages as discussed in the present application. For at least these reasons, the withdrawal of the sec. 103(a) rejection of claims 24, 26, 27, and 30 is warranted and respectfully requested.

No fees are believed due in connection with this Reply. If any fees are due in connection with this Reply, please charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 19-2167.

Allowance of all pending claims is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

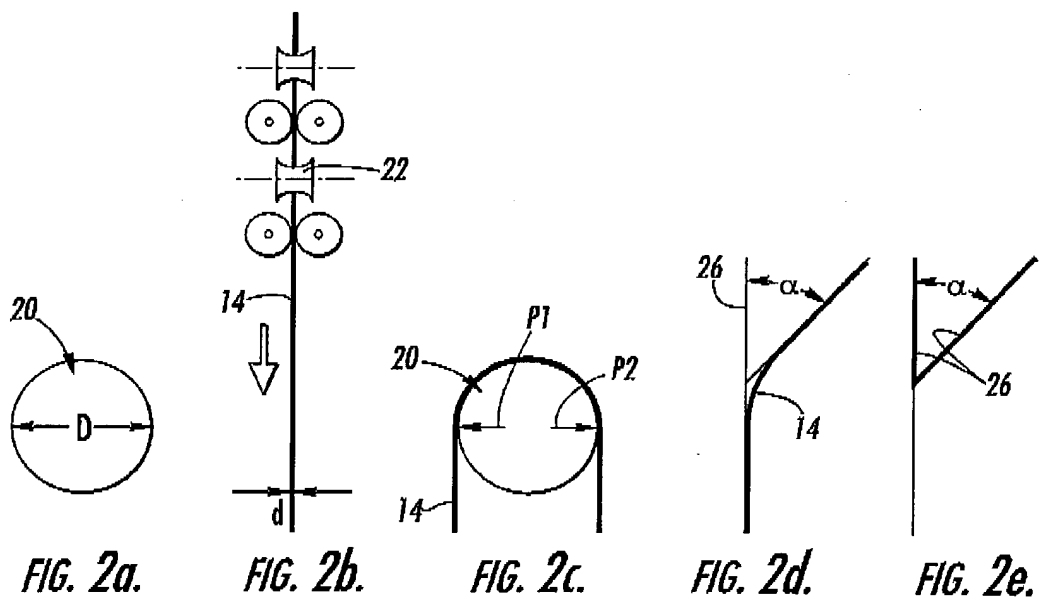
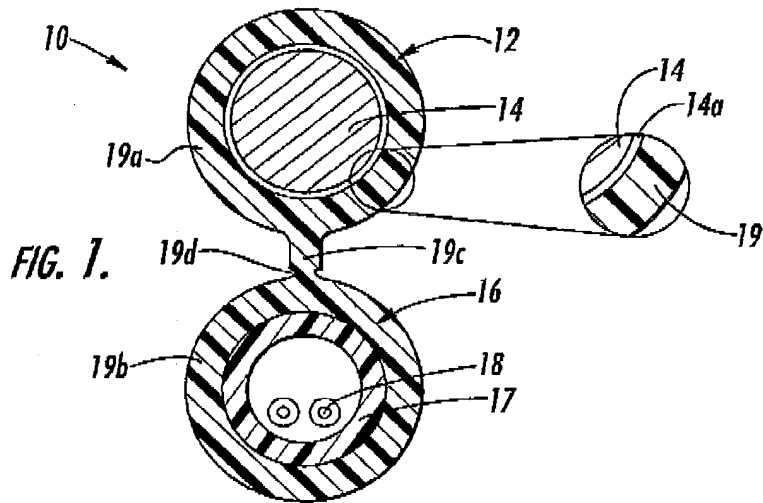
The Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned to discuss the merits of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,


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REPLACEMENT SHEET
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1/3



46 animal • annihilate

man being considered chiefly as physical or nonrational; also: this nature: 4: an individual with a particular interest or aptitude (a political ~); 5: MATTER, THING (the theater... is an entirely different ~); Arthur Miller; also: CREATORS' 1c — *an-animat-lik* (v-mō)-lik *adj*

animal *adj* (1615) 1: of, relating to, resembling, or derived from animals 2 a: of or relating to the physical or sentient as contrasted with the intellectual or rational b: sensual, fleshly 3: of or relating to the animal pole of an egg or to the part from which ectoderm normally develops *syn* see CARNAL — *an-animat-ly* (v-mō-lē) *adv*

animal control *n* (1957): an office or department responsible for enforcing ordinances relating to the control, impoundment, and disposition of animals

animal cookie *n* (1896): a small cookie in the shape of an animal

animalcule (v-mō-mal) (dīkyl) (ō) *also* *an-i-mal-cu-lum* (v-mal-kyu-lum) *n* pl *-culi* *also* *-culi* (v-mal-kyu-lū) (N.L. *animalculum*, dim. of *animal*) (1662): a minute usu. microscopic organism

animal heat *n* (1779): heat produced in the body of a living animal by functional chemical and physical activities

animal husbandry *n* (1919): a branch of agriculture concerned with the production and care of domestic animals

animalist (v-mō-mal-ist) *n* (1912): a sculptor or painter of animal subjects

animism (v-mō-mal-izm) *n* (1831): ANIMALITY — *an-i-mal-iz-* (v-mō-mal-iz) *adj*

animism (v-mō-mal-izm) *n* (1615) 1: qualities associated with animals 2: a vitalism 3: a doctrine of human beings that physical drives or stimuli 2: the animal nature of human beings

animism (v-mō-mal-izm) *n* (1741): 1: to represent in animal form 2: to cause to be or act like an animal — *an-i-mal-iz-* (v-mō-mal-iz) *adj*

animal kingdom *n* (1776): a basic group of natural objects that includes all living and extinct animals — compare MINERAL KINGDOM, PLANT KINGDOM

animal magnetism *n* (1784): 1: a mysterious force claimed by Mesmer to enable him to hypnotize patients 2: a magnetic charm or appeal; *see* SEX APPEAL

animal model *n* (1976): an animal sufficiently like humans in its anatomy, physiology, or response to a pathogen to be used in medical research in order to obtain results that can be extrapolated to human medicine

animal pole *n* (1887): the point on the surface of an egg that is diametrically opposite to the vegetal pole and usu. marks the most active part of the protoplasm or the part containing less yolk

animal rights *n* pl *but sing in constr* (1879): fair and humane treatment of animals — *see* *animal rights*

animal spirits *n* pl (1543) 1: *see* *animal spirits* 2: the nervous energy that is the source of physical sensation and movement 2: vitality arising from physical health and energy

animal starch *n* (ca. 1860): GLYCOGEN

animat (v-mō-mat) *adj* (1818): *fr.* *L. animatus*, pp. of *animare* to give life to, *fr.* *anima* breath, soul; akin to OE *ānīman* to breathe, *L. animus* spirit, *Gk. anima* wind, *Skt. ānī* he breathes (15c) 1: possessing or characterized by life 2: ALIVE 3: full of life 4: ANIMATED 5: of or relating to animal life as opposed to plant life 6: referring to a living thing (an ~ noun) — *animat-ly* (v-mō-mat) *adv*

animat (v-mō-mat) *adj* (1543) 1: to give spirit and support to 2: ENCOURAGE 3: to give life to 4: to give vigor and zest to 5: to move to action 6: to make or design in such a way as to create apparently spontaneous lifelike movement 7: to produce in the form of an animated cartoon *syn* see QUICKEN

animat (v-mō-mat) *adj* (1543) 1: a: endowed with life or the qualities of life 2: ALIVE (viruses that can behave as ~ bodies or inert crystals) b: full of movement and activity c: full of vigor and spirit 3: LIVED (an ~ discussion) 4: having the appearance of something alive 5: made in the form of an animated cartoon *syn* see LIVED — *animat-ly* (v-mō-mat) *adv*

animated cartoon *n* (1915): 1: a motion picture made from a series of drawings simulating motion by means of slight progressive changes in the drawings 2: ANIMATION 2a

animation (v-mō-mat-iz) *n* (1597) 1: the act of animating; the state of being animate or animated 2: a motion picture made by photographing successive positions of inanimate objects (as puppets or mechanical figures) 3: ANIMATED CARTOON 1 3: the preparation of animated cartoons

animat (v-mō-mat) *adj* (1543) *adv* or *adj* (1818): *fr.* *L. animatus* (ca. 1724): with animation — used as a direction in music

animat (v-mō-mat) *adj* (1611): 1: one that animates (the prime ~ of the movement) 2: an artist who creates drawings for an animated cartoon

animat (v-mō-mat) *adj* (1818) (short for *audio-animatronic*) (1978): of, relating to, or being a puppet or similar figure that is animated by means of electromechanical devices — *an-i-mat-ron-ic-ally* (v-mō-mat-ron-ik) *adv*

animism (v-mō-mal-izm) *n* (1831) (G. *Animismus*, *fr.* *L. anima* soul) (1832) 1: a doctrine that the vital principle of organic development is immaterial spirit 2: attribution of conscious life to objects in and phenomena of nature or to inanimate objects 3: belief in the existence of spirits separable from bodies — *an-i-mal-ist* (v-mō-mal-ist) *n* — *an-i-mal-ist-ic* (v-mō-mal-ist-ik) *adj*

animism (v-mō-mal-izm) *n* pl *-ties* (1818) (G. *animismus*, *fr.* *MF or LL* *animus*, *fr.* *LL* *animus*, *animatus*, *fr.* *L. animus* spirit, *fr.* *animus* (1605): ill will or resentment tending toward active hostility; an antagonistic attitude *syn* see BEMITY

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anise (v-mō-nis) *n* (MF *anis*, *fr.* *MF*, *fr.* *L.* *anistum*, *fr.* *Gk.* *aniseion*, *aniseion*) (14c): an herb (*Pimpinella anisum*) of the carrot family having carminative and aromatic seeds; also: ANISEED

aniseed (v-mō-nis) *n* (ME *anis seed*, *fr.* *anis* + *seed*) (14c): the seed of anise often used as a flavoring in liqueurs and in cooking

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annihilate (v-mō-ni-lāt) *vt* (1525) 1: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 2: to cause to cease to exist; *see* *annihilate* 3: to destroy; *see* *annihilate* 4: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 5: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 6: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 7: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 8: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 9: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 10: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 11: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 12: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 13: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 14: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 15: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 16: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 17: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 18: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 19: to cause to be of no effect: *see* *annihilate* 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